



## **Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3**

**Meeting Date:** February 27, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Marshall County Building, Rm 307  
112 W. Jefferson Street  
Plymouth, IN 46563

**Council Members Present:** Linda Cioch, Regional Manager; Michael J. Carroll, Director Marshall County; Chuck Smith, Director St. Joseph County (Alternate member); Peggy Shively, Director Kosciusko County; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County; Magistrate Deborah Domine, Elkhart County; Sally Greenlee, FCM 2 Marshall County; Sally Mahnken, CASA Director Kosciusko County

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Michael Cook, Marshall County Circuit Court; Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko Superior Court; Judge Peter Nemeth, St. Joseph County Circuit Court; Teresa Zornig, Supervisor St. Joseph County.

**Others In Attendance:** Hazel Hooven, White's Family & Residential Services.

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 10:00 a.m.

Introductions were made.

Linda Cioch shared ways to reach her when she is away from her office.

Minutes of the January 23, 2006 Regional Services Council meeting were distributed for review and were accepted as presented.

Update on foster parent member: Linda contacted the Foster Parent Association: wants to select a foster parent from St. Joseph County. She will talk to FCM's from St Joseph County before making a decision. This met with approval of council.

Working Draft of Regional Services Council Protocol was distributed to all members. Comments requested; members will look over and discuss at next meeting.

Copies of the Master Budget Allocations from Region 3 were distributed to all members. This is regarding service providers and is currently at Dodson and Shively undergoing review. Linda will send out to members not present. Work still needs to be done regarding Intensive Family Reunification and Community Partners.

Chuck Smith, Director of St. Joseph County questioned whether funding needed to be allocated for the Youth Advisory Boards. Is there going to be one for each region? Linda will find out and inform council members.

Peggy Shively, Director of Kosciusko County thought services not chosen should be discussed. For example they did not choose CHINS/Parental Support Group because of time involvement for parents. Chuck Smith agreed that it was not necessary because this came under their System of Care. Tony Sommer, Director of Elkhart County said they did choose Family Case Conferencing. Council agreed with rationale for decision.

Deborah Domine, Magistrate from Elkhart County wondered if the System of Care is going to be consistent county to county. Linda Cioch stated that there will be some leeway. FCM's will have more case management time to engage with families once they are at the proper caseloads. There is ongoing work on the new Practice Principles and Linda Cioch explained the direction we are heading with more family engagement throughout the process. There was some continued discussion among members.

Linda Cioch had some new information regarding DCS. They are reviewing all policies and accepting line staff input. The new manual will be completely online and contains links to all legal cites.

SB132 passed as amended. SB139 passed as amended. HB1001 is still being discussed. Brief descriptions of the bills were given.

Linda asked if there was any other new business. She stated that there is new technology coming for the FCM's, the servers are being upgraded; ICWIS is being made more user friendly. The state is contracting with IU for training; this is still in the negotiation stage. Chuck Smith asked if Regional Campuses could be used so the counties can save on travel time and expense. Linda Cioch will send in the suggestion.

Peggy Shively asked if some time could be spent discussing two categories of service.

1. Intensive Family Reunification. It is Peggy's understanding that this is for families in crisis not for chronic problems. The council should consider looking for a regional provider and then coordinate services because the counties are paying for slots which will be limited and then will have to pay whether slot is filled or not. Providers were to resubmit proposals for this service as there was misunderstanding on what the service standards were. This is also different funding; Dodson and Shively are to respond to this. Questions and discussion occurred on what is the crisis criteria required for IFR? Death or molestation were two suggestions.

Also, Tony said all counties have different budget amounts for this service. Tony also wondered if there is a definition of this service. They are time limited and with 4 counties vying for slots the criteria must be definitive.

2. Community Partners. This is also different funding and a lump sum is given to provider for start-up. There is concern that this will be properly utilized with the required services being provided. Linda will send out the service standards for this. There was some discussion among members whether a regional concept would work for this. Deborah Domine asked if there is a deadline for second or late entries? There is no definitive answer at this time and Jim Shively will be contacted for his input.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** The next Regional Services Council meeting was then set for March 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in Kosciusko County at a place to be named. E-mails will be sent out.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 11:00 a.m.